

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 CA-01 SCS-06 H-01
INR-10 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00
COME-00 OES-09 HA-05 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 SSO-00
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-----093934 150233Z /73

O 142151Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1449

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1725

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BF
SUBJECT: MINISTER ADDERELY'S VIEWS ON THE FISHING BOAT INCIDENT

REF NASSAU 1699

1. I MET WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY ON AUG 14
TO DISCUSS THE APPREHENSION OF THE 10 FISHING
VESSELS AND 30 CUBAN-AMERICAN AND AMERICANS,
OFF BIMINI. I EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT
NEITHER THE EMBASSY NOR I PERSONALLY HAD RE-
CEIVED ANY ADVANCE NOTICE OF WHAT WAS GOING
TO TAKE PLACE, NOR OFFICIAL NOTICE EVEN AFTER
THE APPREHENSION OCCURRED. MINISTER ADDERELY
SORT OF LAUGHED AND SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING
HIMSELF UNTIL HE HAD HEARD IT ON TV THAT NIGHT.
ACTUALLY, HE NOTED, HE WAS OFF THE ISLAND THAT
PARTICULAR DAY AND ALTHOUGH HIS PERMANENT
SECRETARY, ORIS RUSSELL, DID HAVE NOTICE OF
THE EVENT, IT WAS SKETCHY INFORMATION. RUSSELL
COMMENTED THAT WE HAD EARLIER INFORMATION
THAN HE DID.

2. MINISTER ADDERLEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT
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EVEN IF HE HAD BEEN ON THE ISLAND, HE WOULD NOT
HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE OPERATION BECAUSE IT WAS
A MARITIME MATTER, NOT PRE-PLANNED, AND THAT
NO ONE KNEW ABOUT IT UNTIL IT ACTUALLY TOOK
PLACE. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT PRIOR EXPERIENCE
TAUGHT THEM TO MAINTAIN AS MUCH SECRECY AS POSSIBLE
IN ORDER NOT TO JEOPARDIZE THE SUCCESS OF THE

OPERATION. PAST EXPERIENCES ALSO DICTATED THAT THEY HAVE AS LITTLE RADIO COMMUNICATION AS POSSIBLE.

3. ADDERELY CONCEDED THAT HE CAN UNDERSTAND OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT BEING NOTIFIED AFTER THE FACT THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT NATIONALITIES WERE NOT DETERMINED UNTIL THE MEN ARRIVED IN NASSAU SATURDAY MORNING, AT WHICH TIME THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL KNEW AS MUCH AS THE BAHAMIAN AUTHORITIES DID, BECAUSE WE WERE INTERVIEWING THE PRISONERS UPON ARRIVAL.

4. I GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM ADDERELY THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO -- RPT NO -- ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THE USG NOR TO EMBARRASS ME, THAT THIS WAS A POLICE MATTER.

5. MINISTER ADDERLEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN HIS OPINION THE LARGE NUMBER OF FISHING BOATS INVOLVED CONVINCED HIM THAT THIS FISHING SAFARI WAS PLANNED AND ORGANIZED IN FLORIDA TO FLAUNT BAHAMIAN LAW. HE SAID IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR THIS NUMBER OF BOATS TO BE FISHING IN THE SAME AREA AT ONE TIME. MINISTER ADDERLEY SPECIFICALLY NAMED HARMON SHIELDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA DEPT OF NATURAL
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RESOURCES, AS BEING ONE WHO HAS, IN ADDERELY'S OPINION, ENCOURAGED THE CUBAN-AMERICANS TO COME INTO BAHAMIAN WATERS. HE CLAIMS THAT SHIELDS DOES THIS TO KEEP THE CUBAN-AMERICAN OUT OF THE FLORIDA WATERS WHERE HIS ASSOCIATION IS ACTIVE.

6. ADDERELY WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GCOB HAD NO TROUBLE WITH THE ANGLO-SAXON (ADDERLEY'S EXPRESSION) FISHERMEN. HE STATED THAT THEY STOPPED FISHING IN BAHAMIAN WATERS A LONG TIME AGO, BUT THAT THE "LATINS" (ADDERLEY'S EXPRESSION) CONTINUE TO COME INTO THESE WATERS NOTWITHSTANDING BAHAMIAN LAWS.

7. COMMENT: ADDERLEY'S CRITICISM OF SHIELDS WAS NOT SURPRISING. AS THE DEPT KNOWS, HE DOES NOT LIKE SHIELDS AND HE BELIEVES HIM TO BE ACTING IN WAYS CONTRARY TO BAHAMIAN INTEREST.
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Message Attributes

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